

1. **Title :** Development of Horticulture in Paschimanchal Districts
2. **Category :** Horticulture
3. **Challenge :** The western tract of West Bengal comprising of the *Paschimanchal* districts of Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur, Birbhum and Paschim Bardhaman districts have relatively less fertile soil and is scarce in rainwater as compared to other parts of the State. The cultivation of traditional agricultural crops is limited in this area.
4. **Initiative :** A pilot project has been taken up by the Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture in the *Paschimanchal* districts through development of Horticulture in the area with the intent to increase farmers' income and improve their socio-economic status.

The climatic conditions and nature of soil of *Paschimanchal* have been found to be ideal for fruits with better aroma and taste, rich in food value, low moisture content, better sugar / acid ratio and bright flesh / skin colour of fruits which have been found to be less prone to diseases and pest attacks, thereby having better acceptability in domestic and export markets. There is an immense scope for production of fruits such as Mango, Guava, Sweet Orange, Lime & Lemons, Pomegranate, Ber, etc. and vegetables in this area. The area has been found to be very suitable for production of Grapes also. Attempts are being made towards organic cultivation which would increase the quality, yield and suitability of fruits / vegetables for export.

The suggested plan of works include orchard establishment (30 hectares / Panchayet for 9 Panchayets in 3 Blocks each year in 6 districts of *Paschimanchal*), selection of beneficiaries, augmenting source of irrigation, selection of fruit crops and availability of planting materials of fruits, establishment of progeny orchard and nursery, planning for planting, intercrop, supply of organic matter, vermicomposting facility (including training) at all levels, crop management practice and Post-Harvest Management facility, rejuvenation and management of neglected / non-productive orchards, marketing, vegetable cultivation, cut flower production of high value flowers under protection, vegetable seed production, bee keeping, block level nursery establishment, etc.

Various kinds of assistance will be provided to the farmers and beneficiaries such as provision of elite planting material from accredited nurseries, water resources for providing irrigation, digging of pits for planting, application of insecticide for plant protection, provision of quality high-yielding vegetable seeds, organic nutrients and vermicompost, creation of poly-house, shade-net, etc. Intensive training to all stake holders has been provided including Technology Demonstration and Farm Practices and Publication of Training materials in local language.

5. **Key result :** A total area of 2953 hectares in 147 Gram Pachayets across the identified six districts covering 7000 beneficiaries was taken up in the pilot phase of the project for the year 2017-18. Fund released under RKVY 2017-18 for this is Rs. 3.5154 Crore. In 2018-19 plantation in 2835 hectares has been completed.

**Status of 'Development of Horticulture in Paschimanchal Districts' - 2017-18**

District	Mango		Guava		Lime		Musambi		Pomegranate		Ber		Nagpur Mandarin		Total Area of Fruits for District	Total Plants for District
	Area (in ha.)	No. of Plants	Area (in ha.)	No. of Plants	Area (in ha.)	No. of Plants	Area (in ha.)	No. of Plants	Area (in ha.)	No. of Plants	Area (in ha.)	No. of Plants	Area (in ha.)	No. of Plants		
<b>Bankura</b>	352	140694	120	33158	7	3841	46	18527	16	10327	15	6015	6	1750	562.00	<b>214312</b>
<b>Birbhum</b>	355.2	142080	112	31136	57	31635	7.6	2113	7.6	3040	6.88	2752	0	0	546.28	<b>212756</b>
<b>Paschim Bardhaman</b>	327	130840	57	15833	23	12778	22	6209	0	0	49	13917	0	0	478.00	<b>179577</b>
<b>Purulia</b>	316	126104	77	29719	73	28650	55	22595	37	13125	23	9840	0	0	581.00	<b>230033</b>
<b>Paschim Medinipur (including Jhargram)</b>	543.5	217398	30.25	8412	75.25	41774	45.18	12562	0	0	92	25620	0	0	786.18	<b>305766</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	1894	757116	396.3	1E+05	235.25	118678	175.8	62006	60.6	26492	<b>185.88</b>	<b>58144</b>	6	1750	2953.46	<b>1142444</b>

**Total Area Covered under Fruits - 2953.46 ha**

**Total No. of Planting Materials - 1142444**

6. **Impact :** Establishment of orchards in the uplands of the drought prone areas in *Paschimanchal* - Major programme in the development project would be creation of semi-permanent assets for income generation for farmers in the area. Early cultivation of high value vegetables in this area is expected to contribute significantly in the economic development of the farming families. Due to favourable soil and climate conditions seed production of crops and vegetables is expected to be profitable. Organic

cultivation would augment export potential and improve fertility of soil for sustained production. Generate income potential and employment opportunities for local people including landless labourers resulting in improvement in nutritional profile of the beneficiary families and other health related parameters, increase in school enrolment and overall well being, etc.

It is expected that the project, post-implementation, will not only play an important role in the social and economic upliftment and poverty alleviation of atleast 15000 farmers' families in the project area, but will also provide a definite road map for development of this hitherto backward area of the State. It can be subsequently replicated in all other blocks / panchayets of *Paschimanchal* and other parts of the State. The project has received phenomenal response in its nascent stages within the project area and plans are on the anvil to replicate it in other parts of the State. The project is being implemented within a time schedule.

7. **Lessons Learned :** Given the magnitude and sensitivity of the project and to understand the implications for its future roll-out and replication in other parts of the State, a baseline socio-economic survey of the project has been undertaken. This may include inter alia the present socio-economic status of the beneficiaries and the project area, identify gaps, if any, prior to implementation and take appropriate corrective steps in order to better appreciate and evaluate the outcome of the project post-implementation.
8. **Images :** Attached
9. **Additional information :** The project has been envisaged by the Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture in convergence with the schemes of other allied departments, wherever necessary i.e. Agriculture, Panchayet and Rural Development, Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs, Backward Class Welfare, Surface Water, Animal Resource Development, Fisheries, etc.

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## Development of Horticulture in Paschimanchal Districts

	
1. Intercropping of onion (var-ADR) with Pomegranate in Taldangra Block, Bankura	2. Staging of Mango grafts/saplings in Bankura-I block, Bankura for distribution to the beneficiary
	
3. Establishment of mixed fruit orchard with drip irrigation at Simlapal block, Bankura	4. Establishment of Mixed Fruit Orchard in Kanksha block, Paschim Bardhaman
	
5. Mango Orchard management in Raniganj block, Paschim Bardhaman	6. Plantation of Papaya with drip irrigation in Ranibandh block, Bankura